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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A speech encoding method, apparatus and program wherein an input speech signal is divided into a plurality of frames each having a predetermined length, each of the frames is subdivided into a plurality of subframes, a predictive pitch period of a subframe in a to-be-encoded current frame is obtained by using pitch periods of at least two frames of the current frame and past and future frames with respect to the current frame; a pitch period of a subframe in the current frame is obtained by using the predictive pitch period, a relative pitch pattern codebook storing a plurality of relative pitch patterns representing fluctuations in pitch periods of a plurality of subframes is prepared, and a change in pitch period of plural subframes is expressed with one relative pitch pattern selected from the relative pitch pattern codebook.

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